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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/701,739	CONNOLLY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael Trettel	3673	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE request of 10/22/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4,6,7,9,10,12-20 and 22-60.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

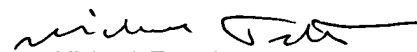
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☒ to Paper No./Mail Date 10/10/03.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>10/22/03</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20040527</u>. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
|--|--|


 Michael Trettel
 Primary Examiner
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Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Eric Cernyar on May 20, 2004.

Claims 19, 22, and 24 have been rewritten as follows:

Claim 19 (amended): A therapeutic bed as claimed in claim 1 wherein one or more hinged panels are provided in the patient support platform to provide access to a patient when the patient support platform is in an inverted position,

each panel having panel locking means to secure the panel in a closed position on the patient support platform,

panel sensing means being provided to sense locking engagement of the panel with the patient support platform,

said panel sensing means being operatively connected to [the] a controller for the motor such that the motor will only operate if the panel is locked in a closed position on the patient support platform.

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Claim 22 (amended). A therapeutic bed as claimed in claim [20] 1, further comprising a ring mounted on the patient support platform coaxially with the longitudinal axis of the patient support platform, wherein the ring has a number of parking slots located about the ring defining a number of parking locations for the patient support platform on the base frame at which a locking bolt is engagable between the patient support platform and the base frame to lock the patient support platform on the base frame.

Claim 30 (amended): The therapeutic bed of claim 23, the patient support platform having side rails extending upwardly from [the] opposite lateral sides of the patient support platform, at least some of the prone patient supports being mounted to the side rails of the patient support platform.

Reasons For Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The applicant has cited a newly found reference in the form of the French patent to Koch (FR 001362417 A). The reference shows a rotating type bed that uses a base frame with a longitudinal pivot axis 2 supported upon arcuate end supports 3, the pivot axis 2 supports a rotating frame 1 that uses a pair of end rings 9 that engage a braking assembly 16. Read the partial translation that accompanies the reference for further understanding of the bedframe and its support. In the Koch reference, the rotating frame 1 can only be flipped over by hand, since the drive means referred to in the translation comprises a link 23 that is only used to rock the frame 1 around the pivot axis 2. The link 23 is driven by a simple crank mechanism and is attached to the frame 1

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along a transverse member 9', with this attachment being made by a clamping mechanism formed by elements 24, 25, 26, and 27. There is no suggestion in the reference that the drive means can be used to flip the rotating frame 1, in fact it is clear from a study of the reference that the drive means must be disengaged first before flipping the frame 1, and then reengaged with the frame in order to be used to rock the frame. Since the claims specify that the patient support platform can be moved by a motor from a supine position to a prone position (i.e., can be flipped over by the motor) the claims define over this reference.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Trettel whose telephone number is 703-308-0416. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday from 7.30 am to 5.00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Shackelford, can be reached on (703) 308-2978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Trettel", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Trettel
Primary Examiner
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